

GLOSSARY

ACQUISITION. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquires land, easements, and other real property rights when it is in the public interest and consistent with approved land use plans. The BLM's land acquisition program is designed to (1) improve management of natural resources through consolidation of Federal, state, and private lands; (2) increase recreational opportunities, preserve open space, and/or ensure accessibility of public land; (3) secure key property necessary to protect endangered species and promote biological diversity; (4) preserve archaeological and historical resources; and (5) implement specific acquisitions authorized by Acts of Congress.

ACTIVE USE. Livestock grazing term meaning the current authorized use, including livestock grazing and conservation use. Active use may constitute a portion, or all, of permitted use. Active use does not include temporary nonuse or suspended use of forage within all or a portion of an allotment. (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 4100.0-5)

ACTIVITY PLAN. A type of implementation plan (see *Implementation Plan*); an activity plan usually describes multiple projects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Examples of activity plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans (HMPs), recreation area management plans, and allotment management plans. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

ACTUAL USE. Livestock grazing term meaning where, how many, what kind or class of livestock, and how long livestock graze on an allotment, or on a portion or pasture of an allotment. (43 CFR 4100.0-5)

ADMINISTRATIVE USE. Official use related to management and resources of the public lands by Federal, State or local governments or non-official use sanctioned by an appropriate authorization instrument, such as right-of-way, permit, lease, or maintenance agreement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES. Administrative use functions involving regular maintenance or operation of facilities or programs.

AIR QUALITY. A measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air, often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances. Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Air Pollution Control Act of 1955, the Clean Air Act of 1963, as amended, and the Air Quality Act of 1967.

ALLOTMENT. An area of land designated and managed for livestock grazing. (43 CFR § 4100.0-5) (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). A document prepared in consultation with the grazing lessees or permittees involved, which applies to livestock operations on the public lands and which: (1) prescribes the manner in, and extent to, which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet the multiple-use, sustained-yield, economic and other needs and objectives as determined for the lands by the Secretary concerned; and (2) describes the type, location, ownership, and general specifications for the range improvements to be installed and maintained on the lands to meet the livestock grazing and other objectives of land management; and (3) contains such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives found by the Secretary concerned to be consistent with the provisions of this Act and other applicable law (from FLPMA, Title 43 Chapter 35 Subchapter I 1702[k]).

AMENDMENT. The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved RMPs or MFPs. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a 1-month period. (43 CFR 4100.0-5)

APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (AMR). Any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using Fire Management Unit strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC). Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. (FLPMA Section 103 (a))

ASSESSMENT. The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

ATTAINMENT AREA. A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based primary standard (national ambient air quality standard, or NAAQS) for the pollutant. An area may have an acceptable level for one criteria air pollutant, but may have unacceptable levels for others. Thus, an area could be both attainment and nonattainment at the same time. Attainment areas are defined using Federal pollutant limits set by EPA.

AUTHORIZED OFFICER. The Federal employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

AVOIDANCE AREA. Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas would have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not be otherwise feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

BACK COUNTRY BYWAYS. Vehicle routes that traverse scenic corridors using secondary or back-country road systems. National back-country byways are designated by the type of road and vehicle needed to travel the byway.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP). A suite of techniques that guide, or may be applied to, management actions to aid in achieving desired outcomes. Best management practices are often developed in conjunction with land use plans, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the land use plan specifies that they are mandatory. They may be updated or modified without a plan amendment if they are not mandatory. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

BIG GAME. Indigenous ungulate wildlife species that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bison, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (BA). The document prepared by or under the direction of BLM concerning listed and proposed species and designated and proposed critical habitat that may be present in the action area and contains the BLM's determination of potential effects of the action on such

species and habitat. Biological assessments are required for formal consultations and conferences on “major construction projects.” They are recommended for all formal consultations and formal conferences and many informal consultations where a written evaluation of the effects of an action on listed or proposed species and on designated or proposed critical habitat is needed. (from M-6840, Special Status Species Manual).

BIOLOGICAL OPINION (BO). The document which includes: (1) the opinion of the FWS and/or NMFS as to whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat; (2) a summary of the information on which the opinion is based; and (3) a detailed discussion of the effects of the action on listed species or designated critical habitat. Depending upon the determination of jeopardy or non-jeopardy, the biological opinion may contain reasonable and prudent alternatives, a statement of anticipated take of listed animals and conservation recommendations for listed plants. (from M-6840, Special Status Species Manual).

CANDIDATE SPECIES. Taxa for which the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has sufficient information on its status and threats to support proposing the species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) but for which issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. (M6840, Special Status Species Manual) (M6840, Special Status Species Manual).

CASUAL USE. Means activities that involve practices that do not ordinarily cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public lands, resources, or improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit (43 CFR 2800). Also means any short-term noncommercial activity that does not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources, or improvements and that is not prohibited by closure of the lands to such activities. (43 CFR 2920)

CLOSED. Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses. For example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 sets forth the specific meaning of “closed” as it relates to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and 43 CFR 8364 defines “closed” as it relates to closure and restriction orders. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR). The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing Federal government activities. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

COLLABORATION. A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

CONDITION CLASS (Fire Regimes). Fire Regime Condition Classes are a measure describing the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire suppression, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, introduced insects or disease, or other management activities.

CONDITION CLASS 1. Fire regimes are within a historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire is low. Vegetation attributes (species composition and structure) are intact and functioning within an historical range.

CONDITION CLASS 2. Fire regimes have been moderately altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire is moderate. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by one or more return intervals (either increased or decreased). This results in moderate changes to one or more of the following: fire size, frequency, intensity, severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been moderately altered from their historical range.

CONDITION CLASS 3. Fire regimes have been significantly altered from their historical ranges. The risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire is high. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals. This results in dramatic changes to one or more of the following: fire size, frequency, intensity, severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range.

CONFORMANCE. Means that a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

CONSERVATION AGREEMENT. A formal written document agreed to by USFWS and/or NMFS and another Federal agency, state agency, local government, or the private sector to achieve the conservation of candidate species or other special status species through voluntary cooperation. It documents the specific actions and responsibilities for which each party agrees to be accountable. The objective of a conservation agreement is to reduce threats to a special status species or its habitat. An effective conservation agreement may lower species' listing priority or eliminate the need for listing. (M6840, Special Status Species Manual)

COOPERATING AGENCY. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) define a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any Federal, state, local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

CRITICAL HABITAT. (1) The specific areas within the geographical area currently occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the ESA, on which are found those physical or biological features (i) essential to the conservation of the species and (ii) that may require special management considerations or protection, and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed on determination by the USFWS and/or NMFS that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Critical habitats are designated in 50 CFR Parts 17 and 226. The constituent elements of critical habitat are those physical and biological features of designated or proposed critical habitat essential to the conservation of the species, including, but not limited to: (1) space for individual and population growth, and for normal behavior; (2) food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements; (3) cover or shelter; (4) sites for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination, or seed dispersal; and (5) habitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historic geographic and ecological distributions of a species. (M6840, Special Status Species Manual)

CRUCIAL VALUE HABITAT. Any particular range or habitat component that directly limits a community, population, or subpopulation to reproduce and maintain itself at a certain level over the long-term. Those sensitive use areas that, because of limited abundance and/or unique qualities, constitute irreplaceable critical requirements for high interest wildlife. This may also include highly sensitive habitats, including fragile soils that have little or no reclamation potential. Restoration or replacement of these habitats may not be possible. Examples include the most crucial (critical) summer and/or winter range or concentration areas; critical movement corridors; breeding and rearing

complexes; spawning areas; developed wetlands; Class 1 and 2 streams, lake, ponds or reservoirs; and riparian habitats critical to high interest wildlife. (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources)

CRYPTOBIOTIC CRUSTS. A biological community that forms a surface layer or crust on some soils. Generally includes algae, microfungi, mosses, lichens, and bacteria. Important in soil protection and nutrient supply. (Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management for BLM Lands in Utah)

CULTURAL RESOURCES OR CULTURAL PROPERTY. A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. (Cf. “traditional lifeway value”; see “definite location.”) Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit described in this Manual series. (M-8100-1, BLM Cultural Resources Management)

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES. Class I—existing data inventory. A study of published and unpublished documents, records, files, registers, and other sources, resulting in analysis and synthesis of all reasonably available data. Class I inventories encompass prehistoric, historic, and ethnological/sociological elements and are in large part chronicles of past land uses. They may have major relevance to current land use decisions. 2. Class II—sampling field inventory. A statistically based sample survey designed to help characterize the probable density, diversity, and distribution of archaeological properties in a large area by interpreting the results of surveying limited and discontinuous portions of the target area. 3. Class III—intensive field inventory. A continuous, intensive survey of an entire target area, aimed at locating and recording all archaeological properties that have surface indications, by walking close-interval parallel transects until the area has been thoroughly examined. Class III methods vary geographically, conforming to the prevailing standards for the region involved. (M-8100-1, BLM Cultural Resources Management)

CUMULATIVE IMPACT. The impact on the environment resulting from the impact of one action added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time. (H-1790-1, BLM NEPA Handbook)

DENDROGLYPH. Refers to a tree with historic or prehistoric designs, often geometric, cut into the bark.

DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS. Specific roads and trails identified by the BLM where some type of motorized vehicle use is appropriate and allowed either seasonally or year long. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

DESIRED CONDITION. Description of those factors that should exist within ecosystems to maintain their survival and to meet social and economic needs.

DISPERSED RECREATION. Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations or dependent on recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

DISPOSAL. Transfer of public land out of Federal ownership to another party through sale, exchange, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Desert Land Entry, or other land law statutes.

EASEMENT. An interest in land entitling the owner or holder, as a matter or right, to enter upon land owned by another party for a particular purpose.

ECOLOGICAL SITE. A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics, differing from other kinds of land in their ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and to respond to management. Ecological sites are defined and described with information about soil, species composition, and annual production. (BLM 2001a)

ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION. Description of the soils, uses, and potential of a kind of land with specific physical characteristics to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation. (Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health)

ECOSYSTEM. Organisms together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system, inhabiting an identifiable space. (Society for Range Management)

ELIGIBLE RIVER. A river or river segment found eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through the determination that it is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses one or more river-related outstandingly remarkable values. (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. (Endangered Species Act of 1973)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA). A concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible that serves to (1) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact, (2) aid an agency's compliance with the NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary, and (3) facilitate preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary. (40 CFR 1508.9)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS). A detailed written statement as required by Section 102 (2) of the NEPA, which states that all agencies of the Federal Government shall include in every...major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the environment, a detailed statement prepared by the responsible official on (1) the environmental impacts of the proposed action, (2) any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, (3) alternatives to the proposed action, (4) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and (5) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action, should it be implemented. (40 CFR 1508.11 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969)

EPHEMERAL STREAM. A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, and whose channel is at all times above the water table. Ephemeral streams generally do not flow continuously for more than 30 days and generally have more robust upland vegetation than found outside of the ephemeral riparian wetland area.

EXECUTIVE ORDER. A presidential directive with the force of law. It does not need congressional approval. The Supreme Court has upheld executive orders as valid either under the general constitutional grant of executive powers to the President or if authority for it was expressly granted to the President by the Congress. Congress can repeal or modify an executive order by passing a new law; however, it must be signed by the President or his veto overridden.

EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (ERMA). A public lands unit identified in land use plans containing all acreage not identified as a SRMA. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature.

FEDERAL LANDS. As used in this document, lands owned by the United States, without reference to how the lands were acquired or what Federal agency administers the lands. The term includes mineral estates and coal estates underlying private surface but excludes lands held by the United States in trust for Indians, Aleuts, or Eskimos. (See also Public Land.)

FEDERAL LANDS POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT (FLPMA) (OF 1976). Public law 94-579. An Act to establish public land policy; to establish guidelines for its administration; to provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands; and for other purposes.

FEDERAL REGISTER. A daily publication that reports Presidential and Federal agency documents. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN. Strategic implementation-level plans that define a program to manage wildland fires, fuel reduction, and fire rehabilitation based on an area's approved resource management plan. Fire management plans must address a full range of fire management activities that support ecosystem sustainability, values to be protected, protection of firefighter and public safety, and public health and environmental issues and must be consistent with resource management objectives and activities of the area.

FLUID MINERALS. Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

FORAGE. Vegetation of all forms available and of a type used for animal consumption.

FREE-FLOWING. "Free-flowing," as applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modifications of the waterway. (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)

FUNCTIONING AT RISK. (1) A condition in which vegetation and soil are susceptible to losing their ability to sustain naturally functioning biotic communities. Human activities, past or present, may increase the risks. (Rangeland Reform Final Environmental Impact Statement [FEIS] at 26.) (2) Uplands or riparian-wetland areas that are properly functioning, but a soil, water, or vegetation attribute makes them susceptible to degradation and lessens their ability to sustain natural biotic communities. Uplands are particularly at risk if their soils are susceptible to degradation. Human activities, past or present, may increase the risks. (Rangeland Reform Draft Environmental Impact Statement [DEIS] Glossary). See also Properly Functioning Condition and Nonfunctioning Condition (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS). A system of computer hardware, software, data, people and applications that capture, store, edit, analyze, and graphically display a potentially wide array of geospatial information. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

GOAL. A broad statement of a desired outcome; usually not quantifiable and may not have established time frames for achievement. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

GRAZING PREFERENCE. A superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease. This priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee. (43 CFR 4100.0-5)

GUIDELINE. A practice, method or technique determined to be appropriate to ensure that standards can be met or that significant progress can be made toward meeting the standard. Guidelines are tools such as grazing systems, vegetative treatments, or improvement projects that help managers and permittees achieve standards. Guidelines may be adapted or modified when monitoring or other information indicates the guideline is not effective, or a better means of achieving the applicable standard becomes appropriate. (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

HABITAT. An environment that meets a specific set of physical, biological, temporal, or spatial characteristics that satisfy the requirements of a plant or animal species or group of species for part or all of their life cycle. There are four major divisions of habitat, namely, terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, and marine (from M6840, Special Status Species Manual).

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP). An officially approved activity plan for a specific geographic area of public land. An HMP identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, defines the sequence of actions to be implemented to achieve the objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (HMA). Public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM where a decision has been made that wild horses and/or burros can be managed for the long-term within that habitat. (H-4710-1)

HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN (HMAP). An action plan that prescribes measures for the protection, management, and control of wild horses and burros and their habitat on one or more herd management areas, in conformance with decisions made in approved management framework or resource management plans.

HIGH VALUE HABITAT. Any particular habitat that sustains a community, population, or subpopulation. Intensive use areas that because of relative wide distribution do not constitute crucial values but are highly important to high interest wildlife. (UDWR)

HISTORIC RESOURCES OR HISTORIC PROPERTY. Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. The term includes, for purposes of these regulations, artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term 'eligible for inclusion in the National Register' includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria" (quoted from 36 CFR 800.2(e); compare National Historic Preservation Act, Section 301, Appendix 5). (See also "cultural resource-cultural property." "Cultural property" is an analogous BLM term not limited by National Register status.) (M-8100-1, BLM Cultural Resources Management) The term can also refer to cultural properties that have a period of use between Euro-American settlement to present.

IMPACTS (OR EFFECTS). Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS. Decisions that take action to implement land use plan decisions; generally appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR 4.410. (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. A subgeographic or site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. Implementation plans include activity plans and project plans. (They are types of implementation plans.) (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

IMPORTANT VALUE. As related to ACECs, a relevant value, resource, system, process, or hazard that has substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. A natural hazard can be important if it is a significant threat to human life or property. (43 CFR 1610.7-2 (a) (2))

INDIAN TRIBE. Any Indian group in the conterminous United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status (listed periodically in the *Federal Register*). (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

INDICATORS. Components of a system whose characteristics (presence or absence, quantity, distribution) are used as an index of an attribute (e.g., rangeland health attribute) that are too difficult, inconvenient, or expensive to measure. (Interagency Technical Reference 1734-8, 2000) (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

INHOLDING. A non-Federal parcel of land that is completely surrounded by Federal land.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM. Staff specialists representing identified skill and knowledge needs working together to resolve issues and provide recommendations to an authorized officer (from H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual).

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY. An interim measure governing lands under wilderness review. This policy (H-8550-1) protects wilderness study areas from impairment of their suitability as wilderness.

INTERMITTENT STREAM. A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas. Generally, intermittent streams flow continuously for periods of at least 30 days and usually have visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influences, such as the presence of cottonwoods.

INVASIVE SPECIES. An invasive plant species is one that displays rapid growth and spread, allowing it to establish over large areas.

JURISDICTION. The legal right to control or regulate use. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.

LAND TENURE ADJUSTMENTS. Ownership or jurisdictional changes are referred as “Land Tenure Adjustments.” To improve the manageability of the BLM lands and their usefulness to the public, BLM has numerous authorities for “repositioning” lands into a more consolidated pattern, disposing of lands, and entering into cooperative management agreements. These land pattern improvements are completed primarily through the use of land exchanges, but also through land sales, by jurisdictional transfers to other agencies, and through the use of cooperative management agreements and leases.

LAND USE ALLOCATION. The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

LAND USE PLAN. A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed. The term includes both RMPs and MFPs. (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

LEASE. Authorization to possess and use public lands for a fixed time period for any use not specifically authorized under other laws or regulations and not specifically forbidden by law.

LEASE STIPULATION. A modification of the terms and conditions on a lease form at the time of the lease sale.

LEASEABLE MINERALS. Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, *as amended*. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium, sodium minerals, and oil and gas.

LEK. An assembly area where birds, especially sage grouse, carry on display and courtship behavior.

LIMITED AREAS. Designated areas where the use of OHVs is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails where use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

LOCATABLE MINERALS. Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

MANAGEMENT SITUATION ANALYSIS (MSA). Assessment of existing resource conditions and current management direction, prepared in advance of a land use plan revision.

MINERAL. Any naturally formed inorganic material. Under Federal laws, considered as locatable (subject to the general mining laws), leasable (subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, and salable (subject to the Materials Act of 1947).

MINERAL ESTATE. The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

MINERAL MATERIALS. Materials such as sand and gravel and common varieties of stone, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws. Mineral materials are considered salable minerals that can be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

MINERAL RESERVES. Identified resources that meet specified minimum physical and chemical criteria related to current mining and production practices, including those for grade, quality, thickness, and depth, and that can be economically extracted or produced at the time of determination. Includes only recoverable materials.

MINIMIZE. To reduce the adverse impact of an operation to the lowest practical level.

MINING CLAIM. A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining Law and local laws and rules. A mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, mill site, and tunnel site.

MITIGATION. A measure that will result in a physical change to the proposed action that will actually reduce or eliminate impacts. CEQ NEPA regulations identify five types of measures to deal with significant environmental effects: (1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) Minimizing an impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (3) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment; (4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance; or (5) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

MONITORING. Observations, data collection, and studies that evaluate compliance of on-the ground management with the RMP direction, or the effectiveness of RMP-prescribed management direction, in meeting broader goals objectives. Monitoring evaluates whether actions 1) comply with NEPA decisions that have been implemented; 2) achieve the desired objectives (e.g. effectiveness); and 3) are based on accurate assumptions (e.g., validation).

MULTIPLE USE. The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (FLPMA).

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969, AS AMENDED. An Act which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

NATIONAL REGISTER. The National Register of Historic Places, expanded and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior, as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act and Section 101(a)(1)(A) of the National Historic Preservation Act. The National Register lists cultural properties found to qualify for inclusion because of their local, state, or national significance. Eligibility criteria and nomination procedures are found in 36 CFR Part 60. The Secretary's administrative responsibility for the National Register is delegated to the National Park Service. (M-8100-1, BLM Cultural Resources Management)

NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM. A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of rivers: (1) recreational—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible

by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past, (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads, and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

NATURALNESS. Lands and resources affected primarily by the forces of nature where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable in an area of 5,000 acres or greater. BLM has authority to inventory, assess, and/or monitor the attributes of the lands and resources on public lands, which, taken together, are an indication of an area's naturalness. These attributes may include the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences and other improvements; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats (from IM-2003-275, Change 1, Considerations of Wilderness Characteristics in LUP, Attachment 1).

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS. Birds that winter in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico and then return to the United States and Canada during the spring to breed. Includes almost half of the bird species that breed in the United States and Canada.

NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY. A fluid minerals leasing constraint that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the lease surface to protect special values or uses. Lessees may exploit the fluid mineral resources under the leases granted with this stipulation through use of directional drilling from sites outside the area. Leasing with "no surface occupancy" means that there will be no development or disturbance whatsoever of the land surface, including establishment of wells or well pads, and construction of roads, pipelines, or power lines.

NONFUNCTIONING CONDITION. (1) Condition in which vegetation and ground cover are not maintaining soil conditions that can sustain natural biotic communities. (2) Riparian-wetland areas are considered to be in nonfunctioning condition when they do not provide adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy associated with high flows and thus are not reducing erosion, improving water quality, or other normal characteristics of riparian areas. The absence of a floodplain may be an indicator of nonfunctioning condition. (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

NOXIOUS WEEDS. A plant species designated by Federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or non-native, new, or not common to the United States.

OBJECTIVE. A description of a desired condition for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established timeframes for achievement. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OFF-ROAD VEHICLE). Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

OFFICIAL USE. Use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors, in the course of his employment, agency, or representation. (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands)

OPEN AREA. Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs. For example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 defines the specific meaning of “open” as it relates to off-highway vehicle use. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

OPERATOR. An operator is one who has authorization from the BLM to conduct activity on public land.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES. Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968: “scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values....” Other similar values that may be considered include ecological, biological or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, scientific, or research values. (M-8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program)

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Remains and traces of once-living organisms preserved in geologic formations that form the Earth’s crust. They constitute a fragile and nonrenewable scientific record of the history of life on earth.

PERENNIAL STREAM. A stream that flows continuously. Perennial streams are generally associated with a water table in the localities through which they flow.

PERMIT. A short-term, revocable authorization to use public lands for specific purposes, Section 302 of FLPMA provides BLM's authority to issue permits for the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands. Permits are issued for purposes such as commercial or noncommercial filming, advertising displays, commercial or noncommercial croplands, apiaries, harvesting of native or introduced species, temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes (does not include mining claims), residential occupancy, construction equipment storage sites, assembly yards, oil rig stacking sites, mining claim occupancy if the residential structures are not incidental to the mining operation, and water pipelines and well pumps related to irrigation and non-irrigation facilities. The regulations establishing procedures for the processing of these permits are found in 43 CFR 2920.

PERMITTED USE. The forage allocated by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease, and is expressed in Animal Unit Months (AUM). (43 CFR § 4100.0-5) (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

PLANNING AREA. A geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

PLANNING CRITERIA. The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions. (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

PREFERENCE. A superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease. This priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee. (43 CFR 4100.0-5). Active preference and suspended preference together make up the total grazing preference.

PRESCRIBED FIRE. Any fire ignited by management action to meet specific objectives. A written approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition. (H-9214-1, BLM Prescribed Fire Management Handbook)

PRIMITIVE RECREATION. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, primitive recreation is managed to be essentially free from evidence of humans and on-site controls. Motor vehicle use is not permitted. Means of access include hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, non-motorized boating and horseback riding.

PROPERLY FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC). (1) An element of the Fundamental of Rangeland Health for watersheds, and therefore a required element of State or regional standard and guidelines under 43 CFR § 4180.2(b). (2) Condition in which vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions that can sustain natural biotic communities. For riparian areas, the process of determining function is described in BLM Technical Reference TR 1737-9. Final Environmental Impact Statement at 26, 72. (3) Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment, capture bed load, and aid floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water, and vegetation. (4) Uplands function properly when the existing vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. The functioning condition of uplands is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water, and vegetation. SEE ALSO Nonfunctioning Condition and Functioning at Risk (from H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual).

PROPOSED SPECIES. Species that have been officially proposed for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior. A proposed rule has been published in the *Federal Register*. (M-6840, Special Status Species Manual)

PUBLIC LAND. Any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except: lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; lands held in trust for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos; and lands where the United States retains the mineral estate but the surface is private. (H-8550-1)

RANGE IMPROVEMENT. An authorized physical modification or treatment which is designed to improve production of forage; change vegetation composition; control patterns of use; provide water; stabilize soil and water conditions; restore, protect and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems to benefit livestock, wild horses and burros, and fish and wildlife. The term includes structures, treatment projects and use of mechanical devices or modifications achieved through mechanical means. (43 CFR § 4100.0-5) (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

RANGELAND. A kind of land on which the native vegetation, climax or natural potential consists predominantly of grasses, grass like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangeland includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a non-crop plant cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangeland may consist of natural grasslands, savannahs, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows. (H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual)

RANGELAND DRILL: A heavy-duty, side-wheel drill developed for seeding rough terrain in semi-arid regions.

RAPTOR. A group of predatory avian species (hawks, eagles, falcons, and owls) also referred to as birds of prey, which share a variety of physical characteristics (e.g., sharp talons, strongly curved bill).

REASONABLE FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENT (RFD) SCENARIO. The prediction of the type and amount of oil and gas activity that would occur in a given area. The prediction is based on geologic factors, past history of drilling, projected demand for oil and gas, and industry interest.

RECORD OF DECISION (ROD). A document signed by a responsible official recording a decision that was preceded by the preparing of an environmental impact statement.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES (R&PP) ACT (of 1926). Recreation and Public Purposes Act authorizes the lease or sale of public lands for public purposes to state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS). A framework for inventorying, planning and managing recreational opportunities. ROS is divided into six classes: primitive, semiprimitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. (See definitions of each class.)

RECREATION RIVER. Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

RELEVANT VALUE. As related to areas of critical environmental concern, a relevant value is a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or natural hazard. (43 CFR 1610.7-2 (a) (1))

RELICT PLANT COMMUNITY. A remnant or fragment of vegetation remaining from a former period when the vegetation was more widely distributed.

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL. A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP). A land use plan as described the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The RMP generally establishes in a written document: (1) Land uses for limited, restricted or exclusive use; designations, including ACEC designation; and transfer from BLM administration; (2) Allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination) and related levels of production or use to be maintained; (3) Resource condition goals and objectives to be attained; (4) Program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve the above items; (5) Need for an area to be covered by more detailed and specific plans; (6) Support action, including such measures as resource protection, access, development, realty action, cadastral survey, etc., as necessary to meet the above; (7) General implementation sequences where carrying out a planned action is dependent upon prior accomplishment of another planned action; and (8) Intervals and standards for monitoring and evaluating the plan to determine the effectiveness of the plan and the need for amendment or revision. (43 CFR 1601.0-5(k))

RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW). The public lands authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, pursuant to a right-of-way authorization.

RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR. A parcel of land that has been identified by law, Secretarial order, through a land use plan or by other management decision as being the preferred location for existing and future right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible.

RIPARIAN AREA. A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. A riparian area is defined as an area of land directly influenced by permanent (surface or subsurface) water. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, hanging gardens, and areas surrounding seeps and springs. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

RIVER. As defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, “river” means a flowing body of water or estuary or section, portion or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

ROADED NATURAL. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, roaded natural recreation is managed to provide a natural-appearing environment with moderate evidence of humans. Motor vehicle use is permitted and facilities for this use are provided. Activities include wood gathering, downhill skiing, fishing, off-highway vehicle driving, interpretive uses, picnicking, and vehicle camping.

RURAL. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, rural recreation is managed to provide a setting that is substantially modified with moderate to high evidence of civilization. Motor vehicle use is permitted and visitor conveniences may be provided. Activities are facility/vehicle dependent and include sightseeing, horseback riding, road biking, golf, swimming, picnicking, and outdoor games.

SALABLE MINERALS. Common variety mineral materials on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, that are used mainly for construction and are disposed of by sales or special permits.

SCENIC BYWAYS. Highway routes, which have roadsides or corridors of special aesthetic, cultural, or historic value. An essential part of the highway is its scenic corridor. The corridor may contain outstanding scenic vistas, unusual geologic features, or other natural elements.

SCENIC QUALITY RATINGS. The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating. The evaluation factors are landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity and cultural modifications. (M-8400-Visual Resource Management)

SCENIC RIVER. A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

SCOPING. An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. This involves the participation of affected Federal, state, and local agencies, and any affected Indian tribe, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons, unless there is a limited exception under 40 CFR 1507.3I.

SECTION 7 CONSULTATION. The requirement of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that all Federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service if a proposed action might affect a Federally-listed species or its critical habitat.

SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE. The requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that any project funded, licensed, permitted, or assisted by the Federal Government be reviewed for impacts to significant historic properties and that the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be allowed to comment on a project.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, semi-primitive motorized recreation is managed to provide a natural-appearing environment with evidence of humans and management controls present, but subtle. Means of access include motorized vehicles and mountain bicycles.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation is managed to be largely free from evidence of humans and on-site controls. Motor vehicle use is not permitted (except as authorized). Facilities for the administration of livestock and for visitor use are allowed but limited. Means of access include hiking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, nonmotorized boating, and horseback riding.

SENSITIVE SPECIES. Those species designated by a State Director, usually in cooperation with the state agency responsible for managing the species and State Natural heritage programs, as sensitive. They are those species that (1) could become endangered in or extirpated from a state, or within a significant portion of its distribution; (2) are under status review by the FWS and/or NMFS; (3) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution; (4) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in population or density such that Federal listed, proposed, candidate, or state-listed status may become necessary; (5) typically have small and widely dispersed populations; (6) inhabit ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats; or (7) are state listed but that may be better conserved through application of BLM-sensitive species status (M6840, Special Status Species Manual).

SERIAL. A seral community is an intermediate stage found in ecological succession in an ecosystem advancing towards its climax community, usually referred to by the name of its dominant vegetation species, which may be the largest or the most common.

SIGNIFICANT. An effect that is analyzed in the context of the proposed action to determine the degree or magnitude of importance of the effect, whether beneficial or adverse. The degree of significance can be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY AREA. The geographic area used for estimation and analysis of economic and social impacts.

SOLITUDE. Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for solitude, or primitive and unconfined types of recreation when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others, where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered in area of 5,000 acres or greater (from IM-2003-275, Change 1, Considerations of Wilderness Characteristics in LUP, Attachment 1).

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA). A public land unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities (e.g., activity, experience, and benefit opportunities). (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES. Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; state-listed species; and BLM state director-designated sensitive species (see BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy). (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

SPLIT ESTATE. Surface land and mineral estate of a given area under different ownerships. Frequently, the surface will be privately owned and the minerals Federally-owned.

STANDARD. A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., Land Health Standards). To be expressed as a desired outcome (goal). (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

STANDARDS FOR RANGELAND HEALTH. Descriptions of the desired condition of the biological and physical components and characteristics of rangeland. The four standards deal with upland soils, riparian and wetland areas, desired species, and water quality.

STATE LISTED SPECIES. Species listed by a state in a category implying but not limited to potential endangerment or extinction. Listing is either by legislation or regulation. (M-6840, Special Status Species Manual)

STIPULATIONS. Requirements that are part of the terms of various types of leases. Some stipulations are standard on all Federal leases. Other stipulations may be applied to the lease at the discretion of the surface management agency to protect valuable surface resources and uses.

SUPPRESSION. All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

SURFACE DISTURBANCE. The alteration or removal of soil or vegetation, usually caused by motorized or mechanical actions, that results in more than negligible disturbance to public lands and resources. Surface disturbance accelerates the natural erosive process. Surface disturbance may result from activities using earth-moving and drilling equipment; geophysical exploration; off road vehicle travel; vegetation treatments; prescribed fire; herbicide applications; and construction of facilities like power lines, pipelines, oil and gas wells, recreation sites, livestock facilities, wildlife waters, or new roads. Surface disturbance may, but does not always require reclamation. Surface disturbance is not normally caused by casual use. Activities that are not typically surface disturbing include, but are not limited to, proper livestock grazing, cross-country hiking, and vehicle travel on designated routes.

SURFACE OCCUPANCY. Placement or construction on the land surface (either temporary or permanent) for more than 14 days requiring continual service or maintenance. Casual use is not included.

SUITABLE RIVER. An eligible river evaluated in the land use planning process and found suitable for inclusion in the national wild and scenic river system. Suitability may vary by alternative based on the theme of the alternative.

SUSTAINED YIELD. The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

TAKE. For the purposes of the endangered species act, the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. (Endangered Species Act of 1973)

THREATENED SPECIES. Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. (Endangered Species Act of 1973)

TIMING LIMITATION (SEASONAL RESTRICTION). A fluid minerals leasing constraint that prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. The constraint does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless analysis demonstrates that such constraints are needed and that less stringent, project-specific constraints would be insufficient.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL). An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, nonpoint, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

TOTAL PREFERENCE. The total number of animal units of livestock grazing on public lands, apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee. The active preference and suspended preference are combined to make up the total grazing preference.

UNALLOTTED LANDS. Public lands available for grazing that currently have no livestock grazing authorized.

UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA. Criteria of the Federal coal management program by which lands may be assessed as unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining. (43 CFR 4300.)

URBAN. As defined in the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum, urban recreation is managed to provide a setting that is largely modified. Large numbers of users can be expected and vegetation cover is often exotic and manicured. Facilities for highly intensified motor vehicle use and parking are available, with mass transit often included to carry people throughout the site.

USER DAY. Any calendar day, or portion thereof, for each individual accompanied or serviced by an operator or permittee on the public lands or related waters; synonymous with passenger day or participant day.

UTILITY. A service provided by a public utility, such as electricity, telephone, or water.

UTILITY CORRIDOR. A parcel of land either linear or aerial in character that has been identified by law, Secretarial Order, the land-use planning process, or by other management decision, as being a preferred location for existing and future right-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical or compatible.

VALID EXISTING RIGHTS. Legal “rights” or interest that are associated to a land or mineral estate and that cannot be divested from the estate until that interest expires or is relinquished. Lands within the RFO are subject to various authorizations, some giving “rights” to the holders and some of which could be construed as providing valid, but lesser, interests. Valid existing rights are established by various laws, leases, and filings under Federal law.

Mineral: Authorizations for activities on existing mineral leases and mining claims are governed by valid existing rights. Valid existing rights vary from case to case with respect to oil and gas leases, mineral leases, and mining claims, but generally involve rights to explore, develop, and produce within the constraints of laws, regulations, and policies at the time the lease/claim was established or authorized.

Non-Mineral: There are other situations, unrelated to minerals, in which BLM has authorized some use of public land or has conveyed some limited interest in public land. The authorization may be valid and existing and may convey some “right” or interest. Many rights-of-way, easements, and leases granted on public land are this type of valid existing right. These types vary from case to case, but the details of each one are specified in the authorizing document. Valid and existing authorizations of this type would continue to be allowed subject to the terms and conditions of the authorizing document.

RS-2477: Some government entities may have a valid existing right to an access route under Revised Statutes (R.S.) 2477, Act of June 26, 1866, ch. 262, § 8, 14 Stat. 251 [codified as amended at 43 U.S.C. § 932 until repealed in 1976 by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), Public Law 94-579, Section 706(a), Stat. 2744, 2793 (1976)], which granted “[the right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses.]” The validity of individual claims would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis. If claims are determined to be valid R.S. 2477 highways, the Resource Management Plan would respect those as valid existing rights.

Access: The presence of non-Federal land within the decision area has implications for valid existing rights because owners of non-Federal land surrounded by public land are entitled to reasonable access to their land. Reasonable access is defined as access that the Secretary of the Interior deems adequate to secure the owner reasonable use and enjoyment of the non-Federal land. Such access is subject to rules and regulations governing the administration of public land. In determining reasonable access, the BLM has discretion to evaluate and would consider such things as proposed construction methods and location, reasonable alternatives, and reasonable terms and conditions as are necessary to protect the public interest and resources of the RFO.

Other: There are a variety of other land use authorizations that do not involve the granting of legal “rights” or interests. Outfitter and guide permits are an example. These permits authorize certain uses of public land for a specified time, under certain conditions, without conveying a right, title, or interest in the land or resources used. If at any time it is determined that an outfitter and guide permit, other such permit, or any activities under those permits, are not consistent with the approved Resource Management Plan, then the authorization would be adjusted, mitigated, or revoked where legally possible. Grazing permits are also in this category. Grazing permits or leases convey no right, title, or interest in the land or resources used. Other applicable laws and regulations govern changes to existing grazing permits and levels of livestock grazing.

VEGETATION TYPE. A plant community with distinguishable characteristics described by the dominant vegetation present.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM). A system by which BLM inventories and manages scenic values and visual quality of public lands. The system is based on research that has produced ways of assessing aesthetic qualities of the landscape in objective terms. In resource management plans, lands are assigned management classes), which determine the amount of modification allowed for the basic elements of the landscape. (See also Scenic Quality Ratings.)

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM) CLASSES. Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape. (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook)

- **VRM Class I:** Preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract visitor attention.

- **VRM Class II:** Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer.
- **VRM Class III:** Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer.
- **VRM Class IV:** Provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to landscape can be high.

WAIVER. Permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

WATER QUALITY. The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

WATERSHED. All lands and water that drain to a given point. Watersheds are often defined in terms of topographic divides (e.g., ridge lines).

WAY. A vehicle route within a wilderness study area that was in existence and identified during the FLPMA Section 603-mandated wilderness inventory. Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1) defines a way as "a track maintained solely by the passage of vehicles which has not been improved and/or maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use." The term is also used during wilderness inventory to identify routes that are not roads. The term is developed from the definition of the term "roadless" provided in the Wilderness Inventory Handbook (September 27, 1978), as follows: "roadless: refers to the absence of roads which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road."

WETLANDS. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

WILD HORSES AND BURROS. Unbranded and unclaimed horses and burros that use public lands as all or part of their habitat or that have been removed from these lands by the authorized officer but have not lost their status under Section 3 of the Act. (H-4750-2, BLM Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Handbook)

WILD RIVER. Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

WILDERNESS. A congressionally designated area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS. Features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that specifically deal with naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive unconfined recreation. These characteristics may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and are practical to manage (from IM-2003-275, Change 1, Considerations of Wilderness Characteristics in LUP, Attachment 1).

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA). An area identified pursuant to Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act as having wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964, that is, an area that (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) is at least 5,000 acres or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

WILDLAND FIRE. Any fire, regardless of ignition source, that is burning outside of a prescribed fire and any fire burning on public lands or threatening public land resources, where no fire prescription standards have been prepared. (H-1742-1, BLM Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook)

WILDLAND FIRE USE. The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in pre-defined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI). The line, area, or zone in which structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

WINTER RANGE. Range that is grazed by livestock or wildlife during winter.

WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of public lands by removing them from the operation of some or all of the public land laws, such as the mineral entry laws.

WOODLAND. A forest community occupied primarily by non-commercial species such as juniper, pinyon pine, mountain mahogany, or quaking aspen groves; all western juniper forestlands are considered woodlands, since juniper is classified as a non-commercial species.